Cooperation to fight against terrorism

†834. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have called up the various countries in the world to extend co-operation to fight against the terrorism prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the various countries in the world and the countries which have given an assurance of their cooperation to India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As a victim of cross border terrorism for many decades India has played an active role in drawing the international community's attention to the need to prioritize the fight against terrorism through enhanced cooperation. Terrorism is a global phenomenon whose destructive reach and lethal potential has been enhanced by global networks of illicit trafficking in drug, money laundering and arms smuggling. We believe that there can be no justification for terrorism: political, religious, religious or any other. India has presented a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In the ongoing negotiations on this draft Convention at the UN, agreement has been reached on most provisions. The negotiations are continuing.

The international community has been generally responsive. The resolve of the international community is reflected in UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of 28th September, 2001, which contains mandatory provisions for combating terrorism.

America's strategy to ease Indo-Pak tension

835. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Secretary of State, on the eve of his recent visit to New Delhi *via* Islamabad, had said that he had come with fresh ideas to ease Indo-Pak tensions;

(b) if so, what were the fresh ideas revealed by General Powell; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) What was Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) During his visit to New Delhi on 17-18 January 2002, US Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed hope that the commitments made by President Musharraf in his speech on 12 January 2002 would create conditions for military and diplomatic deescalation of tensions and resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan. Government conveyed its expectation of concrete action on the part of President Musharraf on the specific demands made by India after the attack on the Parliament. Secretary Powell acknowledged that action must match words and Stated that if we can see actions across the Line of Control, if we can see these terrorist camps being shut down for real and not re-emerging and if we can see action on the list of 20—then I think conditions are in placed for the beginning of a dialogue.

Visit of Parliamentary Delegations to various countries

836. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Parliamentary Delegations consisting of MPs of both the Houses visited various countries recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of such visits;

(c) whether such visits have yielded the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMARABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Seven high level delegations comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, distinguished scholars and former diplomats visited selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Gulf, South East Asia and Africa. One delegation also met with Members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The countries visited included Brunei, Indonesia, Nigeria, Belgium, South Africa, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia, Oman, Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The visiting delegations appropriately and effectively highlighted the fact that despited professing support to the international coalition against terrorism, Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India, and that this is